



Mr James Manson Simmers FIEAust CPEng(Ret)

James Simmers (Jim) spent most of his working life in the Southeast Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB). Following graduation as an Electrical Engineer in 1958, Jim served a two-year graduate-apprenticeship with a major UK electrical manufacturer (Metropolitan-Vickers). He was then Distribution Engineer with a city council in New Zealand for five years. In 1965 Jim moved to Brisbane to the Southern Electric Authority, which later became SEQEB, where he was involved principally in system planning and substations. Jim represented the Australian supply industry on Australian Standards committees for shunt capacitors and standard voltages, producing six technical papers within the field.

On 'retiring' in 1997 he was involved in research into the rating of underground power cables at the Queensland University of Technology, where he worked until final retirement in 1999.

His interest in electrical history has continued post retirement with volunteering at the Queensland Energy Museum to which he was technical adviser. He has authored numerous papers varying from "Edison Tubes Down Under" to "Distribution System Voltage Control Methods". After formal retirement Jim wrote numerous papers on the many aspects of Brisbane's Early Lighting System from Parliament House to the Electrification of the Suburbs.

Jim has been both secretary and chairman of the Queensland Division Electrical Branch. Jim has been active on the committee of the Queensland Branch of Engineering Heritage Australia for ten years since 2004, the archivist for seven years and is still a corresponding member.

Jim is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and has been a regular participant with other EHA(Q) Panel members over many years. He continues to be a corresponding member and attends Panel Technical Evenings and other Engineering Heritage events.

Jim's long years of service to Engineers Australia and Engineering Heritage in Queensland, both during his working life and in his many years on the Queensland Engineering Heritage Panel, has made a notable contribution to Engineering Heritage in Queensland and makes him a worthy recipient of an Award of Merit.

